

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper;

an outer bottom assembly, the outer bottom assembly comprising:

an outsole;

an elastically deformable element, the elastically deformable element having a substantially arch shape in a transverse direction of the outer bottom assembly, the elastically deformable element having an uppermost portion beneath a lower end of the upper, ~~the arch shape of the elastically deformable element having an upper surface~~ extending downward from the uppermost portion to medial and lateral edges, respectively, of the outsole, ~~said upper surface of the elastically deformable element not extending upwardly at the medial and lateral edges of the outsole;~~

the elastically deformable element being located in a heel zone and/or in a forefoot zone of the article of footwear; and

a layer of shock-absorbing material positioned between the elastically deformable element and the outsole.

Claim 2. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element comprises a material having a Young's modulus of at least 40 Mpa.

Claim 3. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 2, wherein:

the elastically deformable element includes an upper end with a substantially planar zone.

Claim 4. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 3, wherein:  
the planar zone has a width of about 15-20 millimeters.

Claim 5. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1,  
wherein:  
the elastically deformable element comprises at least one medial arm  
and at least one lateral arm.

Claim 6. (*Canceled*)

Claim 7. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1,  
wherein:  
the layer of shock-absorbing material comprises at least one recess  
between said layer and the elastically deformable element.

Claim 8. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:  
the elastically deformable element is fixed to the upper via a  
connecting member/wedge.

Claim 9. (*Original*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:  
an outer stiffener is positioned between the upper of the shoe and the  
elastically deformable element.

Claim 10. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element comprises polyurethane.

Claim 11. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element comprises polyethylene.

Claim 12. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element comprises a composite material having a Young's modulus of at least 50 Mpa.

Claim 13. (*Canceled*)

Claim 14. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element is located in the heel zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element is located in the forefoot zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 1, wherein:

the elastically deformable element is located in the heel zone and in the forefoot zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 16, wherein:

in the forefoot zone of the article of footwear, the elastically deformable element has a height greater than a height of the elastically deformable element in the heel zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 16, wherein:

in the forefoot zone of the article of footwear, the elastically deformable element has a height less than a height of the elastically deformable element in the heel zone of the article of footwear.

Claim 19. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 16, further comprising:

a sole reinforcement element;

the elastically deformable element comprising a rear part of the sole reinforcement element and a front part of the sole reinforcement element, the front part of the sole reinforcement element being planar.

Claim 20. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 19,  
wherein:

the front part of the sole reinforcement element is connected to the  
rear part of the sole reinforcement by means of a inclined zone in a plantar arch area.

Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 8,  
wherein:

the connecting member/wedge comprises EVA.

Claim 22. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 8,  
wherein:

the connecting member/wedge comprises TPU.

Claim 23. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 8,  
wherein:

the connecting member/wedge comprises PU.

Claim 24 (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 8,  
wherein:

the connecting member/wedge comprises PA.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) An article of footwear according to claim 1,  
wherein comprising:

an upper having a medial side and a lateral side;  
an outer bottom assembly, the outer bottom assembly comprising:  
an outsole;  
an elastically deformable element, the elastically  
deformable element having a substantially arch shape in a transverse direction of the outer  
bottom assembly, the elastically deformable element having an uppermost central portion  
beneath a lower end of the upper, the substantially arch shape of the elastically deformable  
element extending downward from the uppermost portion to medial and lateral edges,  
respectively, of the outsole;

the arch shape of said elastically deformable element  
extends transversely having an upper surface extending from said uppermost central  
portion at least to a position vertically beneath the [[a]] medial side of the upper and at  
least to a position vertically beneath the [[a]] lateral side of the upper, said upper surface of  
the elastically deformable element not extending upwardly vertically beneath either of the  
medial and lateral sides of the upper;

the elastically deformable element being located in a  
heel zone and/or in a forefoot zone of the article of footwear;

a layer of shock-absorbing material positioned between  
the elastically deformable element and the outsole;

Claim 26. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear comprising:

an upper extending in a longitudinal direction between a heel zone and a forefoot zone and in a transverse direction between a medial side and a lateral side;

an outer bottom assembly positioned beneath the upper, the outer bottom assembly comprising:

an outsole;

an elastically deformable element having a substantially arch-shape in said transverse direction;

the elastically deformable element having an upper surface extending transversely and downwardly from an uppermost central portion at least to a position vertically beneath the medial side of the upper and at least to a position vertically beneath the lateral side of the upper, said upper surface of the elastically deformable element not extending upwardly vertically beneath either of the medial and lateral sides of the upper;

the elastically deformable element being located in a heel zone and/or in a forefoot zone of the article of footwear;

shock-absorbing material positioned between the elastically deformable element and the outsole;

a material forming an intermediate member positioned between the elastically deformable element and the upper, the intermediate member extending at least from the position vertically beneath the medial side of the upper to the position vertically beneath the lateral side of the upper.

Claim 27. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 26, wherein:

said shock-absorbing material positioned between the elastically deformable element and the outsole comprises a foam having a hardness between 20 and 200 Asker C.

Claim 28. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 26, wherein:

said material of said intermediate member comprises a foam having a hardness between 20 and 200 Asker C.

Claim 29. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 26, wherein:

said elastically deformable element extends transversely from a medial edge to a lateral edge;

said elastically deformable element has an upwardly facing convex surface between said medial and lateral edges.

Claim 30. (*Previously Presented*) An article of footwear according to claim 29, wherein:

said elastically deformable element comprises a plurality of arms projecting outwardly from said medial edge and a plurality of arms projecting outwardly from said lateral edge.